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Letter dated 20 December 2017 from the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic, containing an account of the Committee's activities from 1 January to 31 December 2017. The report, which was approved by the Committee, is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

I should be grateful if the present letter and the report were brought to the attention of the members of the Security Council and issued as a document of the Council.

(*Signed*) Volodymyr **Yelchenko**
Chair
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013)
concerning the Central African Republic

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Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic

I. Introduction

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 2127 (2013) concerning the Central African Republic covers the period from 1 January to 31 December 2017.

2. The Bureau of the Committee consisted of Volodymyr Yelchenko (Ukraine) as Chair and the representative of Japan as Vice-Chair.

II. Background

3. By its resolution 2127 (2013), the Security Council imposed a general and complete arms embargo on the Central African Republic and established a committee. The Committee is tasked with, among other things, overseeing the implementation of the sanctions measures. By the same resolution, the Council established a panel of experts working under the direction of the Committee.

4. Subsequently, by its resolution 2134 (2014), the Security Council imposed additional measures, such as a travel ban and an asset freeze on individuals and entities designated by the Committee in accordance with the listing criteria delineated in paragraphs 36 and 37 of the resolution. Both resolutions contain exemptions to the measures and criteria for designation.

5. The Panel of Experts on the Central African Republic consists of five experts. Its mandate was extended most recently in resolution 2339 (2017).

6. Further background information on the Central African Republic sanctions regime can be found in the previous annual reports of the Committee.

III. Summary of the activities of the Committee

7. The Committee held one formal meeting, on 25 January, and met six times in informal consultations, on 17 February, 31 March, 12 May, 21 July, 4 December and 29 December, and held its first open briefing to Member States on 6 September, in addition to conducting its work through written procedures.

8. During the formal meeting, held on 25 January, the Committee met representatives of the permanent missions of the Central African Republic and nine States of the region, namely, Cameroon, Chad, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, the Sudan and Uganda, as well as the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts, who participated through videoconference, to discuss the final report of the Panel (S/2016/1032) and the challenges faced by the participating Member States in monitoring and implementing the sanctions measures.

9. During the informal consultations held on 17 February, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's progress update, submitted in accordance with paragraph 23 (d) of resolution 2262 (2016), on the Panel's activities since the presentation of its final report for 2016 to the Committee in December 2016.

10. During the informal consultations held on 31 March, the Committee heard a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its programme of work.

11. During the informal consultations held on 12 May, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's progress update, submitted in accordance with paragraph 28 (d) of resolution 2339 (2017), on the Panel's activities since the presentation of its previous progress update. The Committee also received a briefing by the Mine Action Service on its role in support of the Central African Republic in weapons stockpile and ammunition management.

12. During the informal consultations held on 21 July, the Committee heard a presentation by the Coordinator of the Panel of Experts on the Panel's midterm report (S/2017/639 and S/2017/639/Corr.1), submitted pursuant to paragraph 28 (c) of resolution 2339 (2017), and discussed the recommendations contained therein.

13. On 6 September, the Committee held the first open briefing since its establishment on the midterm report of the Panel of Experts and on the national implementation of sanctions measures by States in the region.

14. During the informal consultations held on 4 December, the Committee received a presentation by the Panel of Experts on its final report (S/2017/1023), submitted pursuant to paragraph 28 (c) of resolution 2339 (2017), and discussed the recommendations contained therein. The Committee also received a briefing by the Mine Action Service and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research on weapons and ammunition management in the Central African Republic.

15. Following the above-mentioned formal meeting and informal consultations, and in accordance with paragraph 104 of the annex to the note by the President of the Security Council (S/2017/507), the Committee issued press releases containing brief summaries of the formal meeting and informal consultations.

16. On 20 March, the Committee revised and adopted its guidelines for the conduct of its work.

17. On 11 August, the Committee issued a note verbale to all Member States relating to the obligations of Member States to submit to the Committee, in advance, exemption requests and notifications in connection with the arms embargo, pursuant to a recommendation by the Panel of Experts in paragraph 127 (d) of its midterm report (S/2017/639 and S/2017/639/Corr.1).

18. On 15 February, the Chair of the Committee briefed the Security Council on the activities of the Committee, pursuant to paragraph 37 of resolution 2339 (2017) (see S/PV.7884).

19. In 2017, the Committee received implementation reports from three Member States.

20. The Committee sent 102 communications to 21 Member States and other stakeholders with reference to the implementation of the sanctions measures.

IV. Exemptions

21. Exemptions to the arms embargo are contained in paragraph 1 of resolution 2339 (2017).

22. Exemptions to the asset freeze are contained in paragraphs 13 to 15 of resolution 2339 (2017).

23. Exemptions to the travel ban are contained in paragraph 10 of resolution 2339 (2017).

24. The Committee received and approved one arms embargo exemption request pursuant to paragraph 1 (d) of resolution 2339 (2017), six arms embargo exemption

requests pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 2339 (2017) and eight arms embargo exemption requests pursuant to paragraph 1 (g) of resolution 2339 (2017). The Committee received 20 arms embargo notifications pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 2339 (2017), on which no negative decision was taken. The Committee also received three post-facto arms embargo notifications pursuant to paragraph 1 (b) of resolution 2339 (2017), on which no negative decision was taken.

V. Sanctions list

25. The criteria for the designation of individuals and entities as subject to the travel ban and asset freeze are set out in paragraphs 11, 16 and 17 of resolution 2339 (2017). The procedures for requesting listing and delisting are described in the Committee's guidelines for the conduct of its work.

26. On 17 May, the Committee listed one individual subject to the measures imposed in paragraph 5 (travel ban) and paragraph 12 (asset freeze) of resolution 2339 (2017).

27. On 20 December 2016, the Committee received, through the Government of the Central African Republic, a delisting request on behalf of an entity on its sanctions list, on which a negative decision was taken on 28 July 2017. On 20 November 2017, the Committee received, through the Government of the Central African Republic, a delisting request on behalf of an entity on its sanctions list, on which no decision has yet been taken.

28. As at the end of the reporting period, there were 11 individuals and two entities on the sanctions list of the Committee.

VI. Panel of Experts

29. On 8 February, in accordance with paragraph 23 (d) of resolution 2262 (2016), the Panel of Experts provided a progress update to the Committee on information obtained during the Panel's visits to the Central African Republic following the presentation of its final report for 2016 (S/2016/1032) to the Committee on 2 December 2016.

30. On 6 March, following the adoption by the Security Council of resolution 2339 (2017) on 27 January, the Secretary-General appointed five individuals to serve on the Panel, with expertise in finance and natural resources, regional issues, arms, armed groups and humanitarian issues (see S/2017/194). The mandate of the Panel expires on 28 February 2018.

31. On 3 May, in accordance with paragraph 28 (d) of resolution 2339 (2017), the Panel provided a progress update to the Committee.

32. On 6 July, in accordance with paragraph 28 (c) of resolution 2339 (2017), the Panel provided its midterm report to the Committee (S/2017/639 and S/2017/639/Corr.1), which was transmitted to the Security Council on 26 August and issued as a document of the Council.

33. On 13 November, in accordance with paragraph 28 (c) of resolution 2339 (2017), the Panel provided its final report to the Committee (S/2017/1023), which was transmitted to the Security Council on 20 December and issued as a document of the Council.

34. On 29 November, in accordance with paragraph 28 (f) of resolution 2339 (2017), the Panel provided five statements of case, together with supporting evidence, for five

individuals that, in the Panel's view, met the listing criteria delineated in paragraphs 16 and 17 of resolution 2339 (2017). Statements of case for two of the five individuals were updates from original statements of case submitted in 2014.

35. The Panel conducted visits to Belgium, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Ethiopia, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Arab Emirates and the United States of America.

36. Since 1 January, in pursuance of its mandate, the Panel has, through the Secretariat, sent 89 letters to Member States, the Committee and international and national entities.

VII. Secretariat administrative and substantive support

37. The Security Council Affairs Division provided substantive and procedural support to the Chair and the members of the Committee. Advisory support was also provided to Member States to promote understanding of the sanctions regime and facilitate the implementation of the sanctions measures. Induction briefings were also provided to incoming members of the Council to familiarize them with the specific issues relevant to the sanctions regime.

38. To support the Committee in its recruitment of well-qualified experts to serve on sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 11 December to request the nomination of qualified candidates for membership in the roster of experts. In addition, a note verbale was sent to all Member States on 20 October notifying them of upcoming vacancies on the Panel of Experts and providing information on recruitment timelines, areas of expertise and pertinent requirements.

39. The Division continued to provide support to the Panel of Experts, conducting an induction for newly appointed members and assisting in the preparation of the Panel's midterm report submitted in July and its final report submitted in November.

40. The Panel of Experts participated in the fifth annual inter-panel coordination workshop, held in New York on 5 and 6 December, organized by the Secretariat. On 7 and 8 December, the Division, in cooperation with United Nations system partners, conducted a workshop on investigative interview techniques for 10 experts from sanctions monitoring groups, teams and panels. One member of the Panel participated therein.

41. The Secretariat continued to update and maintain the Consolidated United Nations Security Council Sanctions List and the Committee-specific sanctions lists in the six official languages and the three technical formats. Furthermore, the Secretariat implemented improvements concerning the effective utilization of and access to sanctions lists, including through the creation of links within list entries, as appropriate, to INTERPOL-United Nations Security Council Special Notices, as well as the development in English of the data model approved in 2011 by the Committee pursuant to resolutions 1267 (1999), 1989 (2011) and 2253 (2015) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities, as requested by the Security Council in paragraph 48 of resolution 2253 (2015).

42. Pursuant to paragraph 29 of resolution 2339 (2017), the Secretary-General submitted his report on options for benchmarks to assess the arms embargo measures according to progress made in security sector reform in the Central African Republic (S/2017/597).